

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A graphics controller for controlling a display monitor of a computer, comprising:

a register configured to be accessed through a bus of the computer and to store state control data designating a state that the graphics controller is to assume;

a logic unit configured to operate in a working state and a low power-consumption state and to transit to the working state or the low power-consumption state in accordance with the state control data stored in the register; and

~~a state controller configured to invalidate the state control data designating the low power-consumption state stored in the register~~ a switch provided between the register and the logic unit and configured to prohibit the state control data designating the low power-consumption state from being transmitted from the register to the logic unit, thereby to maintain the logic unit in the working state.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The graphics controller according to claim 1, wherein the ~~state controller~~ switch has a first mode for prohibiting the logic unit from transiting to the low power-consumption state and a second mode for allowing the logic unit to transit to the low power-consumption state, and the ~~state controller invalidates the state control data designating the low power-consumption state~~ switch prohibits the state

control data designating the low power-consumption state from being transmitted from the register to the logic unit, in the first mode.

4. (Currently Amended) The graphics controller according to claim 3, further comprising a register configured to be accessed through the bus of the computer and to store mode-designating data that designates either the first mode ~~[[and]]~~ or the second mode.

5. (Currently Amended) The graphics controller according to claim 3, further comprising an input pin configured to receive from an external device a mode-designating data that designates either the first mode ~~[[and]]~~ or the second mode.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The graphics controller according to claim 1,~~ A graphics controller for controlling a display monitor of a computer, comprising:

a register configured to be accessed through a bus of the computer and to store state control data designating a state that the graphics controller is to assume;

a logic unit configured to operate in a working state and a low power-consumption state and to transit to the working state or the low power-consumption state in accordance with the state control data stored in the register; and

a state controller configured to invalidate the state control data designating the low power-consumption state stored in the register,

wherein the state controller includes a selector configured to transmit to the logic unit either fixed data of the same value as state control data representing the working state or the state control data to be stored into the register; and ~~the selector selects to~~

select the fixed data while the state controller is operating in a first mode to prohibit the logic unit from transiting to the low power-consumption state, and ~~selects~~ select the register while the state controller is operating in a second mode to allow the logic unit to transit to the low power-consumption state.

7. (Currently Amended) The graphics controller according to claim 1, wherein the low power-consumption state is ~~[[a]]~~ an off state in which the operation of the logic unit is stopped.

8. (Original) The graphics controller according to claim 1, further comprising a control register configured to be accessed through the bus of the computer and to store control data for controlling a power consumption of the logic unit stayed in the working state.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system in which an operating system performs power management control, said computer system comprising:

a graphics controller configured to control a display monitor and including a logic unit which operates in a working state and a low power-consumption state and which consumes less power in the low power-consumption state than in the working state;

a register provided in the graphics controller and configured to store state control data for transiting the logic unit to either the working state or the low power-consumption state;

a CPU that writes into the register the state control data designating the low power-consumption state, in accordance with an instruction from the operating system; and

~~a state controller provided in the graphics controller and configured to invalidate the state control data designating the low power-consumption state stored in the register~~ a switch provided between the register and the logic unit and configured to prohibit the state control data designating the low power-consumption state from being transmitted from the register to the logic unit, thereby to prohibit the logic unit from transiting to the low power-consumption state from the working state.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer system according to claim 9, A~~ computer system in which an operating system performs power management control, said computer system comprising:

a graphics controller configured to control a display monitor and including a logic unit which operates in a working state and a low power-consumption state and which consumes less power in the low power-consumption state than in the working state;

a register provided in the graphics controller and configured to store state control data for transiting the logic unit to either the working state or the low power-consumption state;

a CPU that writes into the register the state control data designating the low power-consumption state, in accordance with an instruction from the operating system;
and

a state controller provided in the graphics controller and configured to invalidate the state control data designating the low power-consumption state stored in the register,

wherein the state controller includes a selector configured to transmit to the logic unit either fixed data of the same value as state control data representing the working state or the state control data to be stored into the register; and ~~the selector selects to~~ select the fixed data while the state controller is operating in a first mode to prohibit the logic unit from transiting to the low power-consumption state, and ~~selects~~ select the register while the state controller is operating in a second mode to allow the logic unit to transit to the low power-consumption state.

12. (Original) The computer system according to claim 9, further comprising a control register provided in the graphics controller and configured to be accessed through a bus of the computer and to store control data for controlling a power consumption of the logic unit stayed in the working state.

13. (Currently Amended) A device for use as a hardware component in a computer, said device comprising:

a register configured to be accessed through a bus of the computer and to store state control data designating a state that the device is to assume;

a logic unit configured to operate in a working state and a low power-consumption state and to transit to the working state or the low power-consumption state in accordance with the state control data stored in the register; and

~~a state controller configured to invalidate the state control data designating the low power-consumption state stored in the register~~ a switch provided between the register and the logic unit and configured to prohibit the state control data designating the low power-consumption state from being transmitted from the register to the logic unit, thereby to maintain the logic unit in the working state.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein the ~~state controller~~ switch has a first mode for prohibiting the logic unit from transiting to the low power-consumption state and a second mode for allowing the logic unit to transit to the low power-consumption state, and the ~~state controller invalidates the state control data designating the low power-consumption state~~ switch prohibits the state control data designating the low power-consumption state from being transmitted from the register to the logic unit while the ~~state controller~~ switch is in the first mode.

16. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 15, further comprising a register configured to be accessed through the bus of the computer and to store mode-designating data that designates either the first mode [[and]] or the second mode.

17. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 15, further comprising an input pin configured to receive from an external device a mode-designating data that designates either the first mode ~~[[and]]~~ or the second mode.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The device according to claim 13;~~ A device for use as a hardware component in a computer, said device comprising:

a register configured to be accessed through a bus of the computer and to store state control data designating a state that the device is to assume;

a logic unit configured to operate in a working state and a low power-consumption state and to transit to the working state or the low power-consumption state in accordance with the state control data stored in the register; and

a state controller configured to invalidate the state control data designating the low power-consumption state stored in the register,

wherein the state controller includes a selector configured to transmit to the logic unit either fixed data of the same value as state control data representing the working state or the state control data to be stored into the register; and ~~the selector selects to~~ select the fixed data while the state controller is operating in a first mode to prohibit the logic unit from transiting to the low power-consumption state, and ~~selects~~ select the register while the state controller is operating in a second mode to allow the logic unit to transit to the low power-consumption state.

19.-21. (Canceled)